

Message Text

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SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS ON VISITING CODELS

1. ISRAELI PRESS IS GIVING MORE THAN USUAL PRESS TREATMENT TO VISITING CODELS PERCY, INOUE, MATHIAS AND BELL. THERE HAS BEEN SOME EDITORIAL COMMENTARY, WITH STRESS ON HOPE THAT VISITORS WILL LEAVE WITH VIEW THAT ISRAEL'S AID REQUEST IS MINIMUM REQUIRED TO PRESERVE STATE'S SECURITY.

2. SENATOR PERCY, WHO ARRIVED HERE JANUARY 23 FOR 48-HOUR VISIT ON 10-NATION ME TOUR, TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE THAT THE ARAB LEADERS HE MET "EXPRESSED VIRTUAL UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL'S SOVEREIGNTY AND RIGHT TO PEACE AND SECURITY." AMPLIFYING ON REMARK IN JORDAN THAT ISRAEL "CANNOT ATTAIN PEACE WHILE HOLDING THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES," SENATOR PERCY SAID THAT "THE ESSENTIAL RETURN OF THE TERRITORIES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY SECURE BORDERS FOR ISRAEL." IN MAIN, PRESS SEIZED UPON SENATOR'S COMMENT THAT AN ISRAELI PREEMPTIVE STRIKE WOULD RESULT IN A LOSS OF ALL AMERICAN SUPPORT; IT WAS FRONTPAGE IN SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS. IN SUBSEQUENT EDITORIAL, MAARIV ASKED: "DID SENATOR PERCY GIVE THE SAME WARNING ACROSS THE BORDER WHERE THE THREATS OF RESUMPTION OF WAR DO NOT CEASE FOR ONE

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DAY?"

3. CODEL ALPHONSO BELL,WHO ARRIVED JANUARY 21 FOR A TWO-DAY VISIT, WAS QUOTED BY JERUSALEM POST AS TELLING ITS REPORTER THAT A "25-YEAR LEASE BY THE ARABS TO ISRAEL OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND SHARM EL-SHEIKH WAS A POSSIBILITY MOOTED THIS WEEK IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN JIDDA. SOME AMBASSADORS ARE TRYING TO SELL THE IDEA TO KING FAISAL." ON SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IN CONGRESS, BELL SAID THAT IN SPITE OF "SOME GRUMBLING DURING THE ENERGY CRISIS.. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IN THE CONGRESS IS STRONG.."

4. ARRIVAL JAN 23 OF SENATORS INOUE AND MATHIAS, MEMBERS OF SENATE APPROPRIATION FOR A 4-DAY VISIT RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE. ALL NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT ISRAEL WILL STRESS TO DELEGATION THAT US ASSISTANCE IS USED EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY. "THE ISRAELIS ALSO HOPE TO PERSUADE THE DELEGATION," SAID DAVAR EDITORIAL, "THAT ISRAEL'S REQUESTS ARE THE MINIMUM REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF THE STATE..AND WERE NOT EXAGGERATED IN ANY WAY.." OTHER NEWSPAPERS STRESS SIMILAR THEME. JERUSALEM POST EDITORIAL EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE THAT "THE EXCHANGES WITH THE SENATORS WILL NO DOUBT SERVE TO ENHANCE THE COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING THAT HAS FOR SO LONG MARKED ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH THE MEN ON WASHINGTON'S CAPITOL HILL." VELIOTES

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